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UCSB Awarded \$15M by Dow to Establish Collaborative Institute for Materials Research and Education

Gift Launches Partnership to form Dow Materials Institute and Supports Graduate Fellowships in Chemical Engineering

NEWS RELEASE

[via UCSB Public Affairs](#)



The Dow Chemical Company has awarded UC Santa Barbara up to \$15 million to establish a collaborative research initiative that will help shape the future of technology in areas that will benefit society. The Dow Materials Institute at UCSB will educate future scientists and engineers and advance the discovery of revolutionary new materials with applications that range from novel polymers to next-generation microelectronics.

The pioneering institute will be housed in the Materials Research Laboratory (MRL), a National Science Foundation Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) that is widely recognized as one of the top materials research facilities in the world. UCSB is among 11 leading U.S. research universities that has partnered with Dow to "accelerate research and stimulate collaborative innovation in traditional scientific fields important to the company and the nation's future."

"This new partnership with the Dow Chemical Company is dedicated to inspiring a new age of scientific achievement in the United States through collaborative research and interactions with industry, thereby serving as a catalyst to transform people's lives," said Craig J. Hawker, director of the MRL and professor of materials. "By actively engaging in productive partnerships with industry, the MRL with National Science Foundation MRSEC support has proven to be an economic engine here and around the world."

The recent five-year award also includes a philanthropic component consisting of a \$2 million endowment that will provide ongoing funding to support the research of outstanding graduate students. "The Dow Discovery Fellowships are an enormous validation and boost for our doctoral program in chemical engineering," said Michael Doherty, chair of chemical engineering at UCSB. "They will enable our very best doctoral students to provide solutions to the most pressing engineering problems of our time."

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